

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2598

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON QUERO MORALES

REF: STATE 050064

1. DR. CONSTANTINO QUERO MORALES WAS BORN IN COLON, STATE OF TACHIRA, DECEMBER4, 1925. HE ATTENDED ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BARQUISIMETO, STATE OF LARA, AND GRADUATED FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA IN CARACAS IN 1950 WITH A DEGREE IN ECONOMICS. HE DID GRADUATE STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AND OBTAINED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN ECONOMIC POLICY FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

2. QUERO'S CAREER HAS BEEN ABOUT EVENLY BALANCED BETWEEN EXPERIENCE IN THE VENEZUELAN CIVIL SERVICE AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HIS GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING POSTS: STAFF ECONOMIST WITH THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (ANC), HEAD OF THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, HEAD OF THE STATISTICS OFFICE OF MAC'S PLANNING DIVISION, ACTING HEAD OF MAC'S AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS DIVISION, DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY AT THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, AND MEMBER OF SEVERAL INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSIONS WHICH DEALT WITH FINANCES, AGRICULTURE, STATISTICS AND INDUSTRIAL POLICY.

3. QUERO'S EXPERIENCE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR SPANNED A FIFTEEN-YEAR PERIOD FROM 1959 TO 1974. IT INCLUDED ADVISORY POSITIONS TO A NUMBER OF ASSOCIATIONS, SUCH AS THE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY (FEDECAMARAS), THE VENEZUELAN INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL, THE VENEZUELAN

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TEXTILE ASSOCIATION, AND THE VENEZUELAN-SPANISH CHAMBER OF

COMMERCE. MOREOVER HE WAS AN ADVISOR TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNION BANK; A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES; PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRADORA UNION, S.A. (A LARGE REALTY FIRM); AND CHIEF OF THE PLANNING OFFICE OF THE BANK OF VENEZUELA. AT THE TIME OF HIS RETURN TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE QUERO WAS SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF ANOTHER REALTY FIRM, INMOBILIARIA UNION, S.A.

4. QUERO WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING CORPORATION IN MARCH 1974. HE WAS NAMED MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT IN JULY 1974. ON JANUARY 23, 1975, PRESIDENT PEREZ APPOINTED QUERO TO HEAD THE VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT FUND WITH THE RANK OF MINISTER OF STATE, REPLACING CARLOS GUILLERMO RANGEL, WHO RESIGNED BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH.

5. AMONG QUERO'S PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN HIS MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL BUSINESSMEN. QUERO HAS BEEN A PROFESSOR AT THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA AND SANTA MARIA UNIVERSITY, LECTURING IN THE FIELDS OF ECONOMIC THEORY, ECONOMIC DYNAMICS, AND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS AND POLICY. QUERO HAS ALSO WRITTEN NUMEROUS ARTICLES AND REPORTS AND HAS AUTHORED SEVERAL BOOKS ON ECONOMIC SUBJECTS.

6. CONCERNING HIS VIEWS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, QUERO IS VERY FRIENDLY TOWARD THE PRIVATE SECTOR. HIS VIEWS ARE COMPATIBLE WITH PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY. IN A STATEMENT OF HIS ECONOMIC BELIEFS TO THE FEDECAMARAS NATIONAL COUNCIL IN 1964 QUERO SAID, "THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY MUST FOLLOW A DIFFERENT PATH IN ITS DEVELOPMENT THAN THOSE PRESENTED BY SOCIALISM, CAPITALISM AND NATIONALISM. THE STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VENEZUELAN ECONOMY PERMIT IT TO USE DIFFERENT MEANS TO ACHIEVE A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH IT IS NOT NECESSARY NOR OBLIGATORY TO EXPROPRIATE FOREIGN CAPITAL NOR APPLY COMPULSIVE OR STATIST POLICIES AGAINST THE PRIVATE BUSINESSMAN WHO, WITH A SENSE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, WORKS ARDUOUSLY TO THE BENEFIT OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT." WE BELIEVE THIS STATEMENT STILL REFLECTS HIS ECONOMIC VIEWS. QUERO SEES A ROLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT IN THE ECONOMY AS WELL AND, WHERE THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS REAPING TOO MUCH PROFIT, A PLACE
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FOR GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT DEALS, FOR EXAMPLE IN COMMODITIES PURCHASES.

7. QUERO HAS PERFORMED ABLY IN HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED BY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN HERE. HIS BANKING EXPERIENCE WILL STAND HIM IN GOOD STEAD AS HEAD OF THE INVESTMENT FUND. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE QUERO IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY. IN OPERATING THE INVESTMENT FUND HE WILL

FOLLOW HIS NATURAL INSTINCTS AS A BANKER BUT HE WILL ALSO DO
THE POLITICAL THING AND BE GUIDED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES
IN HIS DECISIONS.

8. QUERO IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN. GLOSSY PHOTO
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT MARCH 7.
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